



## **Rebuild Iowa Task Force Cultural Heritage Meeting Notes**

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**July 30, 2008 — 9:00 am to 1:15 pm  
West Des Moines Learning Resource Center  
Community Room, Front Half  
3550 George Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, Iowa**

### **Task Force Members Present:**

Karris Golden, Task Force Chair, Waterloo  
Arbe Bareis, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids  
Carmine Boal, Iowa General Assembly, Ankeny  
Nancy Boettger, Iowa General Assembly, Harlan  
Douglas Elliott, East Central Iowa Council of Governments, Cedar Rapids  
Sam Erickson, Community Housing Initiatives, Inc., Pleasant Hill  
Jason Follett, Iowa Historical Society Board of Trustees, Ankeny  
Michael Hayes, Poweshiek Publications/Gannett, Malcom  
John Herbert, Legion Arts, Cedar Rapids  
Laura Hoover, Amana Colonies Historical Sites Foundation, Swisher  
Wally Horn, Iowa General Assembly, Cedar Rapids  
Jim Kern, Brucemore, Inc., Cedar Rapids  
Rose Middleton, John Deere, Waterloo  
Helen Miller, Iowa General Assembly, Fort Dodge  
Thomas Moore, African American Museum & Cultural Center of Iowa, Hiawatha  
Bob Neymeyer, Grout Museum District, Parkersburg  
Joseph Nolte, Fort Des Moines Museum & Education Center, Des Moines  
Sue Olson, National Czech Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids  
Cyndi Pederson, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Des Moines  
Tom Smull, Iowa Cultural Coalition, Des Moines  
Timothy Weitzel, Historic Preservation Consultant and Photographer, Iowa City  
Inkyung Westfall, City of Council Bluffs, Council Bluffs  
Sandi Yoder, Iowa Museum Association, West Des Moines

### **Resource Group Members Present:**

Tricia Bender, Office of the State Archaeologist, Coralville  
Jim Cross, Mitchell County Historical Society, Riceville  
Todd Garner, Substance Architecture, Des Moines  
Kathy Gourley, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines  
Dennis Harper, Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division, Johnston  
Gordon Hendrickson, State Historical Society of Iowa, Clive  
Barbara Mitchell, State Historical Society of Iowa, Johnston  
Roderick Scott, Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, Iowa Falls  
Mary Sundet Jones, Iowa Arts Council, Cedar Rapids  
John Swanson, Children's Science Museum, Cedar Rapids  
Jerome Thompson, State Historical Society of Iowa, Johnston

**Presenters:**

Charles Chaffins, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Public Assistance  
Jim Woodard, FEMA, Individual Assistance Program  
Kevin Wynne, Small Business Administration (SBA)

*Note: All other presenters are Task Force or Resource Group members*

**Observers:**

Noreen Bush, House Republican Caucus, Des Moines  
Syeta Glanton, IGov, Des Moines  
Shauna Haas, FEMA LTRC, Urbandale  
Jennifer Jacobs, Des Moines Register, Des Moines  
Richard Nelson, Legislative Services Agency, Des Moines  
Jennifer Parsons, House Democratic Caucus, Des Moines  
Julie Simon, Senate Democratic Caucus, Des Moines  
Russ Trimble, Senate Republican Caucus, Des Moines  
Douglas Wulf, Legislative Services Agency, Des Moines

**Staff:**

Aaron Todd, Department of Cultural Affairs, RIO Task Force Manager  
Ben Banowetz, SPPG  
Brooke Findley, SPPG  
Michelle Rich, SPPG

**Welcome Introductions, Charge to the Task Force – Karris Golden, Task Force Chair**

Golden began the meeting by explaining the format for the meeting and the charge of the Task Force. Presentations will be given providing information pertinent to the Cultural Heritage Task Force. The Task Force will use this information to develop recommendations for the Governor to make effective plans for short-term recovery and long-term sustainability. The Task Force Chair will report the Task Force's recommendations and suggestions back to the RIO Advisory Commission. The Commission will then, in turn, present its recommendations to the Governor. It is the duty of the Task Force Chair to represent the Task Force's interests on the Advisory Commission. Ms. Golden stated that it was her pleasure to serve as the Task Force Chair for the Cultural Heritage Task Force.

Ms. Golden turned the floor over to Brooke Findley of State Public Policy Group to review the agenda and plans for discussion.

**Planning for the Day – Brooke Findley, State Public Policy Group**

Findley explained that the Task Force had a lot to get done in just a morning, so no formal break would be provided. Findley also explained that the Task Force would have a working lunch.

Findley stated that the Task Force was fortunate to have Ms. Golden as Chair. The Task Force will report back to the Commission through a Task Force Report. The Commission will then, in turn, consider all nine Task Force reports in its report to the Governor within 45 days with recommendations for rebuilding Iowa. The Task Force will collect best practices and damage assessments in order to inform recommendations. By 1:15 the Task Force must have reached consensus so staff may then write the report. The Resource Group is very important in order to best inform the recommendations of the Task Force. Resource Group members were asked to

participate to answer any questions Task Force members may have. Findley thanked the Task Force members for their participation and for lending their expertise and knowledge.

## **Presentation of Information**

### *Overview of Incident and Damage Assessment – Cyndi Pederson, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs*

Pederson thanked Ms. Golden and the Task Force. Pederson explained that it was with mixed emotions that was here today giving an overview of the devastation Iowa's cultural, history, and arts industries suffered from the tornados, flooding, and storms this summer. The Department of Cultural Affairs works with numerous businesses and individuals that have been impacted by Iowa's weather disasters, including small and large nonprofit arts, culture, and history organizations; city and county offices that maintain official and historic records; historic properties; and others.

Pederson explained that the Task Force will be provided much information this morning, showing the level of damage incurred by Iowa's museums, theaters, art galleries, studios, organizations, individuals, historical properties, cemeteries, archaeological sites, and many other properties and assets has been devastating and, in many cases, catastrophic.

Pederson stated that she was very thankful for the commitment to the mission of the Cultural Heritage Task Force and the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission. Under the Leadership of Governor Culver and Lt. Governor Judge, the work the Task Force begins today will help guide and shape the future of our entire state as we rebuild a safer, stronger, and smarter Iowa.

Pederson spoke of the hard work of the people of Parkersburg. Neighbors from surrounding communities dropped what they were doing and pitched in to help Parkersburg bury friends and loved ones; clear debris; and rebuild homes and businesses. But even as that process began, the rains came, and more tornados came, and it continued to rain.

Pederson explained the role the Department of Cultural Affairs plays after the disasters. This summer, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has been reaching out to Iowans in the cultural, history, and arts industries that have been impacted by severe weather. The Department has been offering and continues to offer:

- Technical and financial resources including:
  - Information about preservation of flood-damaged historic buildings and homes.
  - Contacts for dealing with damage to cemeteries, museum collections, photographs, manuscripts, and other paper records.
  - Connecting people with appropriate resources to match their need.
- The State Historical Society of Iowa has made available emergency REAP/HRDP grants of up to \$15,000.
- The Iowa Arts Council is also making emergency Arts Relief Grants of up to \$500 and continues to search for more funding.

The Department of Cultural Affairs conducted a series of conference calls and created a special email address to help Iowa's cultural, history, and arts leaders provide us reports about weather-related damages. The reports show a level of damage that is widespread and staggering. These damages impact the quality of life of industries that make Iowa a great place to live, work, and visit.

Reports the Department has received to date:

- 73 Arts-related reports and updates,
- 67 Historic Preservation-related reports and updates,
- 24 Museum-related reports and updates,
- 22 Documentary-related reports and updates,
- And 5 reports classified as “other,” i.e. the Great Ape Trust.

The reports document a wide range of information, including:

- Damage to property such as theaters, museums, and historic buildings,
- Organizations displaced because their offices were flooded,
- Artists prevented from entering their studios, some of which were on upper stories of buildings deemed unsafe to enter.

Communities that have reported damage include: Mason City, Waverly, Waterloo, Charles City, Elkader, Decorah, Amana, Fort Madison, Burlington, Oakville, Muscatine, Bonaparte, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Belmond, Coralville, Des Moines, Ankeny, Keosauqua, Davenport, and Iowa Falls.

The report includes information about what was damaged, such as stages, seating, equipment, sets, costumes, props, supplies, pianos, organs, drywall, plywood, carpet, computers, office supplies, art collections, historical documents, artifacts, collections, boilers, and furnaces,. Lost revenues were also reported.

Organizations housed in damaged buildings have been forced to find temporary office space and alternate sites to present theatrical productions, art exhibitions, and other events previously scheduled. Mold issues continue to be a serious concern. Theaters and historic buildings are being tested for structural integrity. Even as our cultural, history, and arts leaders and workers deal with recovery and rebuilding, most of them are simultaneously assessing and estimating their financial needs while researching and applying for local, state, and federal programs.

To help the Department of Cultural Affairs get a clearer picture, the Department asked Iowa’s cultural leaders to voluntarily fill out a simple survey about the level of financial damages they have incurred, their filings with FEMA and the SBA, and to provide the Department with information about needs that have not been addressed. The following is a summary of the report findings.

- More than 72% do not have insurance coverage.
- Lost revenue is not covered.
- 42% will not be filing claims with FEMA.

The list is wide and varied according to need. Not only do these cultural, history and arts organizations face the heartache and headache of recovery and rebuilding, their absence from the marketplace is having a negative impact on our economy and threatens the quality of life we have worked so hard for decades to establish.

Pederson asked the Task Force to consider the following:

- The cultural arts generated 3,480 jobs and \$347 million in and around Black Hawk, Montgomery, Pottawattamie, Wapello, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties, and the 31 counties that surround them during the 12-month period ending last fall.

- A 2006 survey of 63 cultural organizations in 11 Iowa counties in the Cultural Corridor – the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area – found:
  - \$63.08 million in local economic activity,
  - Support for approximately 2,000 FTE jobs,
  - \$33.9 million in household income to local residents,
  - \$6.2 million in local and state government revenue.
- In Greater Des Moines, a 2006 survey of 37 cultural, artistic, and education venues found:
  - \$87.74 million in sales,
  - \$44.55 million in value-added services,
  - \$29.9 million in labor income,
  - 1,944 jobs.

In addition, the Travel Industry Association of America has documented 81% of adult travelers include a cultural event while on a trip of 50 miles or more away from home. Such travelers also bring the benefit of longer stays and higher average expenditures, in turn generating more revenue for the community. The studies come at a time when Iowa continues to rank nearly last in the country for per capita investment in the arts. Iowa ranks 45th in the nation for state legislative appropriations per capita investment in the arts.

Iowa invests 42 cents per capita to support the arts, while the national average is \$1.04. If there was ever a time for Iowa to strengthen its investment and commitment to its cultural, history and arts industries, it is now.

Pederson asked the Task Force to consider the following questions as discussion progresses:

- What are the best practice policies that the Task Force can identify and implement to get Iowa artists, cultural organizations and businesses back to work?
- What steps do Iowans take to once again provide and improve the quality of life to people who live and visit here?
- How can the Task Force make sure Iowa does not lose its theaters, concerts, symphonies, operas, art galleries, museums, historical sites, and other venues, organizations, and events?

Pederson stated that much of Iowa's historical fabric is in jeopardy. Does the Task Force lift the cap on historic preservation tax credits to give investors more opportunities to invest in the rehabilitation of Iowa's historical properties for adaptive reuse? What are the long-range issues involved with saving Iowa's historic structures that make Iowa unique and authentic? How do Iowans educate people about historic preservation and what it means to the state's authenticity and identity?

Pederson shared a story from the Cedar Rapids flooding. After the floodwaters began to recede in Cedar Rapids, and people started to assess and understand the full impact of what they'd been through, Matt Losch waded through the basement of Theatre Cedar Rapids to retrieve letter for the marquee out front. He removed the old message and replaced it with a song title from the theatre's upcoming show: "We're All in This Together." Those simple words reflect the silver lining in the dark clouds that have swept through Iowa this summer.

Pederson thanked the Chair for the opportunity to share her thoughts.

*Impact on Museums and Other Cultural Organizations – Sandi Yoder, Iowa Museum Association*

Yoder stated that she would like to reiterate what Pederson said about the needs of our cultural institutions. Yoder explained that the words she had heard most that ring true of Iowa's cultural institutions have been "devastating and impacting." The size of the need is huge. Small and large institutions, large and small budgets have been significantly impacted. In these institutions lie Iowa's history and creative traditions. Yoder stated that Iowa could not forget about these institutions.

Yoder explained that small institutions are charged a lot of fees for rebuilding and planning. If Iowa is rebuilding, then the rebuilding needs to be innovative. Museums serve all sorts of people – early education, retired people, and others.

Yoder stated that these institutions are a large part of the cultural component of the communities they serve. They are an integral part of local economies and historical traditions. The Task Force is here to make sure cultural organizations get equal billing with other parts of the planning as part of the rebuilding efforts. Yoder thanked the Task Force.

*Impact on Arts and Historical Organizations – Jim Kern, Brucemore, Inc.*

Kern stated that he was primarily representing Cedar Rapids on the Task Force. The numbers from Cedar Rapids are indicative of the level of damage; Cedar Rapids residents feel as if they are ground zero in the disasters. It is Cedar Rapids' best estimate that 75 to 80% of the city's cultural institutions have been impacted in the disasters.

Cedar Rapids is the economic engine for Eastern Iowa. Kern stated that the city feels it has tremendous opportunity to build better. They are in the middle of a miracle. Cedar Rapids has been grieving, but it is time to improve. Discussions are turning to discovering new pathways for recovery.

Kern explained that nearly 40 members out of a total of 110 Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance members have been impacted by the disasters. There are more than 20 buildings in Cedar Rapids on the National Historic Register that have been affected. The whole Czech Village and New Bohemia Historic District is damaged. In Iowa City, it was primarily the campus that was damaged. Hancher Auditorium, Clapp Recital Hall, the Art Museum, and Riverside Outdoor Theatre were all impacted.

The Corridor was significantly impacted. Kern stated that Cedar Rapids has experienced a devastating loss of museums, arts and sciences programming, exhibits, and galleries. The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa, Museum of Art, Indian Creek Nature Center, Science Station, Legion Arts Gallery, Ushers Ferry and Seminole Valley were all significantly damaged. Only Brucemore, History Center, and the Grant Wood Studio remain unaffected.

Kern further explained that the second significant impact is the loss of performance facilities and programs. Kern stated that not many people had noted the damage to the Paramount or discussed its future. The good news about the Cedar Rapids Theatre is that it was in the middle of a capital campaign. Some of that money will go into rebuilding, but some parts not covered by the campaign will not be covered by the funds raised. The Legion Arts facilities were not significantly damaged, but experienced two robberies on consecutive Thursdays. Memorial Vets

Coliseum is not damaged, but it remains inaccessible. There has been a direct effect on 10 performance arts organizations in the Corridor.

Kern stated that some good news is that many schools and colleges have been very agreeable to opening up their space. However, once school begins in just a month, this space will not be available. The Englert in Iowa City is now booked throughout the month.

Kern turned discussions to historic structures. Many historic structures in the Cedar Rapids area had been impacted. The Czech Village and New Bohemia are the primary locations for National Register listed buildings. New Bohemia had a plan for development as an arts district that included home and studio spaces for artists. The anchor buildings were National Register listed and National Register-eligible buildings were included in the development. Other commercial, city-owned, and nonprofit buildings downtown that were affected include Mays Island, Paramount Theatre, Louis Sullivan-designed Wells Fargo Building, Iowa Theatre Building, Guaranty Bank, Merchants National Bank, and the Roosevelt Hotel.

Kern estimated that the financial impact of the disasters would total more than \$100 million. All arts organizations project a loss of revenue from dislocation; modified programming; inconvenient or inappropriate performance facilities or exhibition space; inflation causing loss of discretionary income; and increased competition for private, corporate, and government funding. Kern stated that not all organizations and institutions would survive, but that it was his hope that the Task Force would come up with innovative practices to ensure that most survive.

*Best Practices: 1993 Flood and 2006 Iowa City Tornado – Gordon Hendrickson, State Historical Society of Iowa*

Hendrickson began by stating that one of the benefits as the floods started to hit is that many employees of the Department of Cultural Affairs looked back at 1993 and what was effective and what was not. The Department learned that they could make a difference and save resources and records. Hendrickson stated that to be effective, one has to act fast.

Hendrickson first spoke to the Task Force on lessons learned in 1993. The Department began gathering information and considered what technical assistance DCA could provide? The Department compiled and mailed out information packets. The Department also needed on-the-ground assistance. The Department found federal funds for a team that included many different areas and put them on the road about a month after the floods occurred in 1993. The Department found new mold, new colors, and new strains. Hendrickson stated that in many cases DCA was too late to save many items.

Hendrickson then moved to speak about this year's actions by the Department. This year, DCA put people on the ground immediately. The Department used electronic technologies and started early. Hendrickson asserted that the planning for response – the process of planning – was more important than having a plan. Hendrickson stated that the Task Force must make sure institutions have disaster preparedness plans. Institutions don't have time to sit around when the disaster hits and ask, "What should we do first?"

Hendrickson explained in disaster preparedness, institutions have a 48-hour window with records. Records must be frozen, freeze-dried, and then cleaned and preserved. Records come back exactly as they go to the freeze-drier. The analysis and impacts on cultural buildings is very different from records. Preservationists also found that they cannot operate too fast with buildings. They know they have to wait somewhat with buildings to let them dry a little.

Hendrickson stated that the rebuilding process is a long process. The demand for technical assistance is high. The Department is providing technical assistance readily this year. The Department is planning for at least a 10-year rebuild.

Hendrickson then spoke of the Iowa City tornado. The Department was fortunate that it happened during the legislative session. A large appropriation allowed for a quick rebuild. The Department also knew there were things that needed to be done. Hendrickson explained that the Historic Development Resource Grant has a county cap; only two grants can be awarded per county. The Task Force needs to look closely at legislative impacts and how best to deal with response. The Department knew that a one-year appropriation was not sufficient. Some people are just trying to get on their feet in a year. Hendrickson stated that the Task Force had some hard decisions to make, but that the Task Force had the necessary knowledge and experience to make recommendations with confidence. Hendrickson thanked the Task Force for his opportunity to speak.

*Response and Resources for Historic Properties – Barbara Mitchell, State Historical Society of Iowa*

Mitchell explained her position as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Iowa. Mitchell first reviewed the role of the State Historic Preservation Office or “SHPO.” The SHPO lives in the Department of Cultural Affairs. The Office has a number of charges, including inventorying historic properties and nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The SHPO also provides technical assistance to Iowans regarding historic places. The Office administers state and federal tax programs for historic properties. SHPO is also involved in the review of federal money coming into the state related to historic property. The Office reviews the effect on historic properties of federal funding from DOT, FEMA, etc.

Mitchell discussed available damage reports. On the federal level, the Office is looking at May and June. On the state level, flooding started in April and even March. People are forgetting tornado damage. Historic cemeteries have been damaged, including the New Hartford cemetery that took a direct hit. Historic bridges in Eastern Iowa – the Charles City pedestrian bridge cannot be salvaged. The Sutliff Bridge – one of three spans was affected. National historic landmarks that were affected include the Amana Colonies. The Amana Mill Race had just been restored from 1993. The George M. Verity boat had water over its deck.

Commercial properties and residential properties have damage from flooding and sewage backups. Some properties damaged include the Frank Lloyd Wright Alvin Miller House in Charles City, William Green House in Rochester, and Horn House near Decorah, to name a few. Archeological areas have also been damaged. The SHPO does not have a good sense of that damage, but is working with the Office of the State Archaeologist to identify affected sites and to assess damage.

The Office’s response thus far has included putting people on the ground to conduct field visits throughout affected areas, working with FEMA and HSEMD to streamline the federal review process, and working with state preservation partners to document damage. The Office recently provided a workshop for property owners in Cedar Rapids in conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Resources currently available:



- Federal Historic Tax Credits (20% of qualified rehab costs) for income-producing properties only
- State Historic Tax Credits (25% of qualified rehab costs) for commercial, residential, and rural properties. No more credits are reserved this year due to the cap on the program and high number of July 1 applications.
- Historic Sites Preservation Grants (HSPG) grant applications are due mid-September. An emergency program has been proposed.
- Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP). No emergency funds are available through this program. Historic property portion allocated for State Fiscal Year 2009. Applications for SFY2010 are due next spring.

Mitchell explained that there will most likely be no funding available for the state tax program.

Mitchell discussed relevant federal and state legislation currently pending that may have an effect on damage response in Iowa. Supplemental legislation was signed in late June. No funds were directed towards historical properties, but some may be used for historic properties. The Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit was introduced in the House and Senate and increases tax credits from 20% to 26% of rehabilitation costs. This legislation also allows for a credit of 13% for houses built before 1936. Other proposed legislation includes \$35 million for historic properties in all affected Midwestern states through the Historic Preservation Fund for preservation grants. Three million dollars would be directed to the affected SHPOs. That legislation has now been indefinitely postponed.

Mitchell turned focus to state legislation. The state rehabilitation tax credit is a well-used program because of caps. Mitchell explained that it would really benefit recovery if the Task Force were to recommend removing the county caps. Currently only two awards can be given per county. Other state legislation is related to the HRDP program, setting up a fund that would go directly to affected areas.

Mitchell detailed her wish list. It included an additional appropriation for SHPO office for more staffing.

#### *Response and Resources for Arts Organizations – Mary Sundet Jones, Iowa Arts Council*

Sundet Jones explained grant programs available with the Iowa Arts Council. When the disasters occurred, the Council was near the end its fiscal year. The Council was given an extension, and was able to issue an emergency arts relief grant application. The Iowa Arts Council has already made 26 grants of \$500 each to artists and arts organizations affected by the storms to assist with immediate recovery and clean-up costs. The Council anticipates being able to make an additional 30 emergency recovery grants very soon, thanks to additional funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sundet Jones announced that the National Endowment for the Arts has informally approved an additional \$80,000 to support professional artists, arts organizations, and arts projects that incur new costs as a direct result of damages or displacement due to Iowa's floods and tornados this year. The Council expects to distribute these funds as grants and stipends of approximately \$3,000 to \$6,000 each.

Severe weather played havoc with the organizational systems of numerous Iowa artists and organizations. For those that had received IAC grants for activities that have had to be delayed

or moved, the Council has worked with grantees to ensure that such changes do not put their grants in jeopardy. The final report deadline for grants made in FY08, generally July 30 for all grantees, is being extended for any affected grantees. The Council has also responded to at least one request for documentation of our grant-making history to an organization whose financial records were completely lost.

Sundet Jones described a grant program made available by an Iowa artist living abroad. An anonymous Iowa artist who has been working overseas for several years was moved to contribute \$5,000. She asked these funds to be distributed as five \$1,000 grants to affected Iowa artists. She subsequently learned that her own studio storage space in Iowa had been flooded and most of its contents destroyed. Still, she wanted to support other artists in Iowa with this gift. Her words, in part: "I am making this donation to offer encouragement to artists to continue with their work. Many artists in Iowa have experienced devastating loss. You add grace and class to our environment, a sense of wonder and place, and when something as horrible as the recent flood strikes, the entire community, in fact our entire state, feels the loss of its artistic essence. You are vital to us and are deeply appreciated!"

Sundet Jones stated that she echoed the artist's impassioned words and stated that she was thankful for the work the Task Force is undertaking today.

*Response and Resources for Museums and Historic Sites – Jerome Thompson, State Historical Society of Iowa*

Thompson explained his role as the State Curator with the State Historical Society. Thompson explained that one of the Historical Society's sites is closed because there is no access. These employees are not being paid for this time.

Within about 36 hours, the Historical Society started to provide resource information online. That included how to respond and information for first responders related to records and preservation. The Society's records people were on the ground to deal with collections at museums in the effected areas. The Society then compiled who first needs help, the damage, and what assistance they needed.

The State Historical Society paper conservator in Iowa City provided assistance to colleagues at the Czech Museum and the African American Museum in Cedar Rapids. There was a coordinated information and resource gathering effort with the Iowa Museum Association. I even provided a van load of recovery supplies to Cedar Rapids for distribution to area museums.

The Minnesota Historical Society Conservator went to Cedar Rapids on June 22 as the first contingent of the American Institute of Conservation CERT Team. He was unable to obtain access to certain sites, but went to Burlington and Fort Madison to provide assistance there.

AIC assistance is still available by request. They have funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide professional assistance at no charge to affected institutions. Also, Humanities Iowa provided \$30,000 in emergency relief to seven museums in Cedar Rapids, Cedar Falls, and Fort Madison. On June 23, the National Endowment for the Humanities Chair made a discretionary grant of \$1,000,000 for \$20,000 emergency grants.

Thompson encouraged the Task Force to look at cultural institutions developing disaster protection, response, and recovery plans and coordinating those plans with county emergency management officials and plans.

### *Dennis Harper – HSEMD Public Assistance*

Harper discussed public assistance available through Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. It is the largest of the federal assistance projects. Harper stated that he previously spent 15 years developing the state's hazard mitigation plan. Those plans focus on preventing damages from disasters. As the Task Force turns the corner looking forward, planning is critical and planning for future events is especially important. This should include cultural organizations and institutions.

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) allows states to bring in other staff from other states to help us here. These agreements are very important and may be something the Task Force looks at as discussions progress.

Harper described the public assistance program. The incident period started May 25 and has not officially closed yet. Damages in this time period are eligible for the Public Assistance (PA) program. Eighty-three counties are currently covered under PA. Harper explained that his staff are working directly in the field with the communities affected by the events. IA HSEMD has staff deployed across the state.

Public Assistance is a partnership between HSEMD and FEMA. FEMA brings technical assistance staff, and they will eventually leave town and go on to another event. Eventually the program turns over to the state. All money goes through the state. It is a 75% federal, 25% non-federal match. 15% of the non-federal match will be met by local entities. The current estimate of eligible damages in the state is \$798 million. Harper estimated that along with the Hazard Mitigation program, eligible damages may reach over \$1 billion. This is 6-7 times larger than 1993.

IA HSEMD now works very closely with their Cultural Affairs partners. Harper explained that this is a big change from 1993. Some of the federal undertakings will include cultural institutions. Harper stated that a big issue will be getting technical assistance to counties that need consultation for potential projects.

Harper further explained that when IA HSEMD is working with facilities, insurance always comes first. One of the biggest risk factors HSEMD looks at is the penalty for not having flood insurance if located in a floodplain. HSEMD takes \$500,000 on facilities and \$500,000 on contents off the top even before specific eligible damages are reviewed.

The 404 Hazard Mitigation Program is the voluntary acquisition of buildings in the floodplain. This is a program provided through communities. A long-term planning process looks at a number of issues, and could include a mixture of flood protection and rebuilding in the floodplain.

Harper stated that he believed that between 2,000 to 4,000 buildings would be removed from the floodplain either through a FEMA or HUD acquisition program.

### *Charles Chaffins – FEMA Public Assistance*

Chaffins stated that FEMA is honored to help Iowans in their time of need and that FEMA is here for the long haul. Chaffins added that FEMA is supporting the tribal entities as sovereign nations.

Chaffins concluded by stating that whether in doubt, always apply for assistance both with FEMA and SBA because people could eventually become eligible.

#### *Jim Woodard – FEMA Individual Assistance*

Woodard stated that he was in Iowa last year during the two events. Woodard expressed sadness with having to come back so soon after last year's events.

Woodard gave the Task Force a run down of the FEMA individual assistance program. Individual assistance is separate from Public Assistance. It is to aid and assist homeowners, renters, and individuals with their personal losses. Over 31,000 people have visited local Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) since they were opened throughout the state. More importantly now, since the incident is still open, people can detail additional losses with FEMA at the DRCs.

Woodard asked the Task Force to carefully review the FEMA individual assistance sequence of delivery. The process begins immediately after the incident. Volunteer agencies come in to provide emergency assistance, such as the Red Cross and faith-based organizations. Home insurance is the next step; FEMA cannot duplicate insurance. Homeowners and renters should check with their insurance providers first before coming to FEMA. Then there is grant assistance and temporary assistance such as renter's assistance and direct housing assistance (mobile homes and park models). These extend up to 18 months. Financial assistance is usually awarded up to three months and then individuals must re-certify to be eligible for longer periods. Assistance is also available for repair and rebuilding. The maximum grant awarded is a total of \$28,800. This has always been meant as emergency assistance to continue after an event. Eligibility is determined regardless of insurance.

The Other Needs program is a state-administered program for things such as funeral, medical, dental, specialized tools (for occupations such as carpentry), and other categories. People may also receive an application package for an SBA loan. If this is not returned, there will be no other opportunities for grant assistance. Regardless of whether a person wants a loan immediately or not, the person should apply. One can turn it down but has to apply now.

#### *Kevin Wynne – SBA Assistance*

Small Business Administration assistance programs are not often awarded to government or nonprofits. Wynne told the Task Force that he would be available throughout the day if there are any questions. Wynne thanked the Task Force.

#### **Issue Identification**

Golden introduced issue identification to the Task Force members. Golden commented that this will be a long-term process and the Task Force needs to focus on what Iowans need immediately and what The Task Force wants for the future. The ultimate perspective is one of long-term sustainability and ensuring that we rebuild safer, stronger, and smarter. Golden thanked the group for their participation and hard work.

Findley gave an overview of Executive Order 7 that has charged the Cultural Heritage and Record Retention Task Force with recommendations. These two groups were separated for discussion and the focus will be on Cultural Heritage this morning. Findley noted that all Task Force members have their own priorities, but today all members need to be thinking much

larger. The perspective needs to be focused on the state of Iowa and ensuring the rebuilding and sustainability of Iowa's Cultural Heritage traditions and institutions. The Task Force must start by making a list of issues. Findley opened the floor to the Task Force members. Findley asked members to identify the issues, both long and short term.

The group voiced concern that Cultural Heritage is not often represented as an issue of importance when looking at sustainability. The Task Force asked that staff include a statement of importance in the report that would reflect the importance of Cultural Heritage to the state and its short and long-term recovery.

Golden stated that this would be included in the report.

The Task Force identified insurance issues as being very important, including whether or not institutions should be allowed to build or operate in a floodplain, and the need for affordability to be a part of the discussion.

Collaboration was identified as a major issue. The group identified Culture, History, and Arts Teams (CHAT) as a possible existing network to build on. Task Force members felt that the expansion of CHAT to serve as a network to pool resources and communication with one another was a good idea. The Task Force recognized that CHAT may serve as one-stop regional centers for resources, a directory of assistance, emergency preparedness information, and resources on grant writing.

The Task Force identified the need to look into hazard mitigation, recovery planning, and preventing disasters in the future. One Task Force member noted that because of the hazard mitigation plans she put into action after 1993, her organization was in much better condition this year. The group also noted that there must be funding for any mandate of disaster planning.

The Task Force identified the need to reach out to people across the state. Again, CHAT was identified as a possible vehicle for this outreach. Task Force members noted that the CHAT was initially created to bring in experts to the regions.

The Task Force noted that basic data were still not available in order to make any clear damage assessments. The Task Force identified baseline data as a starting point to identifying additional issues. Members also noted that organizations would need time and money to undertake their own individual damage assessments. The Task Force identified the need for assessment funds to help with this effort. The Task Force noted that this process would likely take many years to fully detail all damages, so this would be a long-term issue.

The Task Force noted the need for alternative forms of communication. In the middle of a disaster email or listservs do not work. The Task Force also noted that some people don't have computer literacy or that electronic communication is not the ideal method of communication during disasters where power systems are down.

The Task Force strongly expressed the desire to lift the per-county caps on the historic tax credit. The Task Force recommended instituting emergency rules that would allow for the tax credit caps be lifted during disasters. The Task Force also expressed a desire to expand the Endow Iowa program.

The Task Force also identified the need to document personal accounts of the disaster and its impacts. The Task Force noted that people and institutions should be interviewed to effectively describe community impacts of the disasters.

***Broad Issues:***

- Assessment
- Coordination across systems, i.e, cultural institutions, federal government, municipal governments
- Funding (number one priority)
  - Immediate and future
  - Some of our institutions may get lost
- Planning
  - Recovery
  - Funding
  - Organizational capacity
  - Regional? Integrate with Emergency Management – CHAT?
- Ensuring sustainability of small and large institutions
  - Short and long-term for both
  - Historic artifacts exist in individuals' hands or small collections
- Communication
  - Interagency
  - Cross-systems
  - Internal
  - Networking
  - CHAT expansion
- Individual Artist Sustainability
  - Outreach
  - Ensuring survival
  - Thinking about their needs in this discussion
- Cultural, Historical Inventory
  - Resources need to be provided to large and small

Golden stated that cultural heritage needs to be brought into county and state emergency preparedness plans.

The Task Force also noted that Iowa has one of the five weakest statewide nonprofits to ensure historical preservation. A statewide partner such as the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance needs to be bolstered or reworked. The Task Force noted that this statewide partner could help to fundraise for Iowa's cultural organizations and institutions.

***Immediate Needs***

- Artists and organizations need to get back to work or we will lose them.
  - Studios, spaces
  - Supplies
  - Operating expenses
  - § The pot needs to be regenerative
- Coordinated communication
  - On applications
  - For resources
  - Funding

- People don't know how or where to find help
- Same rules for artists apply to staff ; it is hard to recruit staff
- Lift caps on rehabilitation of historic structures
  - There are many buildings in Cedar Rapids ready to rehab, but the funds are not there.
  - Tax credits are really the only funds available to commercial buildings. For a very small business they are not very effective.
  - One of the reasons it is not effective is that people do not know how to get on the Register and do not know how to take advantage of that resource.
- Emergency rules
- Restoration of Cultural grants to pre-2000 levels of funding.
- For years the cultural community has been trying to prove its worth. This is the opportunity to make the case for the importance of cultural organizations in a community. Cedar Rapids has lost 75 to 80% of its cultural organizations. We need to make sure the legislature knows the impact of this.
- The Governor needs to advocate for Iowa's worth. The Gulf got \$45 million and we have to split \$35 million between more states.
- Caps can be changed, but the emergency rules need to be used.
- We need to create a subcommittee to recommend emergency rules.
- We need to look at convertible spaces. Some historical buildings can be convertible housing units for both nonresidents and residents.
- Small counties may be lost in changing the caps. We need to make sure that the funding is evenly distributed and it doesn't just go to Cedar Rapids.
- Fully funding HRDP.
- Finding people to do some of this rehab work.
- Some institutions do not have capacity or experience to go through this process effectively.
- We have no idea how our archaeological sites have been affected. And we don't know information about historical farmsteads, either. We don't have the staff power to do such inventorying.
- We need to increase funding into the Department of Cultural Affairs for the Cultural Leadership Program. It is statewide, and it goes to large cultural institutions identified as leaders. It could then act as a conduit of information and networking.
- Increase TAN funding – assistance for grantwriting. A network is in place and available.
- Funding has steadily decreased to the Department of Cultural Affairs and things cost more. We not only need to allow more than two grants per county, but also more money needs to go to these grants. This is part of economic development. We are artists, but we are not thought of as businesses. We add value to economies, and we need to document this.

## **Recommendations**

### ***Funding***

- One of the best suggestions from Miami-Dade County after Hurricane Andrew was that the legislature dedicated tax revenues to recovery of cultural institutions. Dedicating revenues from rebuilding to the rebuilding of cultural institutions.
- Revenues increase as people rebuild.
- Fully fund HRDP.

- Modify county caps.
- Take the tax credits from various programs that are unused by June 30 and put those towards the backlog in the historic pool.
- Expand the “Great Places” program.
- Lift the cap on Endow Iowa.
- Put in place a cooperative funding program between Cultural Heritage and Emergency Management – creating an intrastate EMAC system.
- Short-term staffing needs filling.
- Support from private sector for nonprofit needs, for instance, a grant consultant for a year
- Tweak CHAT; use this network for funding distribution, networking, technical assistance, other options.
- GIS mapping of Iowa is needed.
- Funding for assessment.
- Embrace Iowa funds earmarked for cultural institutions.
- Explore options for operational funding allowances.

### ***Insurance***

- Researching vehicles to make insurance accessible to nonprofits in the floodplain and ensuring its affordability.

### ***Assessment***

Is this necessary short-term? Or are there other priorities that should come first?

- WPA expansion
- “Do no harm” policy; incentives to cultural institutions that get evaluated for cultural importance.

### ***Communication***

- Outreach to rural areas. Get people out there. CHAT expansion.
- Better communication of disaster situation.
- Alternatives to electronic, online communication.

### ***Long-term mitigation***

- Helping encourage partnerships.
- Moving records out of floodplain.
- Supplies collected for cultural institutions.
- Preparations must be made for next natural disaster.
- Mitigation planning as requirement of flood recovery funding, with support and technical assistance to complete plans.
- Emphasize “green” building.

### **Process for Completing 45-Day Report**

Findley explained that notes would be available to the Task Force within the next week. Then Task Force staff will work to complete the 45-Day report to the Advisory Commission by August 18. This will also be shared with the Task Force for comment prior to finalization.



### **Closing Comments and Adjourn**

Golden asked the Task Force to approve the recommendations verbally to ensure consensus has been reached. Golden stated that she wanted to ensure that all members' voices were heard. The Task Force staff will work diligently to provide the Task Force with draft recommendations in a timely fashion. Staff will allow for a two day turnaround so that all Task Force members will have a chance to voice any concerns regarding the draft recommendations before they are presented to the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission.

Golden explained that the Task Force will be responding only to content issues, not word-smithing. The recommendations will not change from what the Task Force had discussed today. The Task Force staff are very concerned with bringing members' ideas and recommendations to the Governor. Golden noted that she recognized the need to communicate the need of Iowa's Cultural organizations and artists to the entire state. The Task Force staff will work on a statement that will accompany the recommendations that clearly emphasizes the importance of cultural heritage to the greater work of rebuilding Iowa. Golden asked the Task Force to give themselves a hand for their hard work and valuable discussion. The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission appreciates the work of all Task Forces.

Golden moved to schedule a second meeting of the Task Force in September to look specifically at long-term recovery issues. With all in favor, Golden confirmed that the Task Force would meet again in September. The Task Force was adjourned.